A limited number of berths on trains originating from or passing through stations in the Delhi area has been earmarked as emergency quota for dealing with High Official Requisitions and other emergent requests. This quota is jointly controlled by Ministry of Railways and Northern Railway. The number of berths against this quota varies from train to train depending upon the total number of reserved berths available at any particular time, the number of trains run for the same destination, the demand from other sectors viz. Defence, Foreign Tourists, Parliament, etc.

(c) and (d) The emergency quota is normally released taking into account factors like status of the passenger travelling, nature of urgency of travel like bereavement sickness in the family, etc.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The work relating to release of emergency quota is a specialised job and does not require dealing with cash.

Reservation Quota of Berths and Seats of the Minister

3646. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of providing reservation of berths and seats from Railway Board's quota has been handled by Personal staff of the Minister in the past;

(b) whether such arangement was made to avoid any chance of manipulation and favouritism by staff dealing with this work;

(c) whether Government propose to revive the same practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Action Plan to clear Housing Backlog in Delhi

3647. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently drawn up three pronged action Programme to clear housing back-log in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c whether Government propose to ensure that registrants with DDA under various schemes are allotted flats within a span of two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement the same ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Delhi Administration has taken up the formulation of a plan to augment housing for inclusion in the Eighth Five Year Plan and implementation during the Plan period.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Raids on the premises of edible oil manufacturers

3648. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government in its efforts agianst hoarding and blackmarketing have recently conducted some raids on the premises of edible oil manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these raids have in anyway improved the availability of essential commodities in the market;

(d) whether these raids have also helped to control the rising prices of essential commodities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recently searches and surveys on the premises of manufacturers and dealers of edible oils were made in terms of the provisions of Income Tax Act, at several places in the country. As per information available so far, 263 searches/surveys were conducted. Excess stock of oil of Rs. 33.04

lakhs is reported, besides Rs. 4 crore worth of oil stock which is pending verification. Assets of over Rs. 11 crores has been seized.

(c) to (e) A number of factors combine to have an effect on the availability and prices of essential commodities. Surveys, searches and inspections are one amongst them. Other factors to improve the availability of essential commodities and to check their price rise are increase in their production, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrians, strengthening of PDS and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils) subject to overall constriants of availability of foreign exchange.

Crisis in the Sugar Industry

3649. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the worst crisis in the sugar industry in the country because of its deteriorating "financial health' resulting in a loss of over Rs. 300 crores;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any exercise to know the causes of the crisis in the sugar industry; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to rescue the sugar industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) There does not appear to be any evidence of a financial crisis in the sugar industry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, State Governments have been advised to increase the number of wholesale licensees both with a view to improving sugar availability to all regions as well as inducting greater competitiveness in the wholesale trade.

Shifting of Governments offices from Delhi

3650. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the steady proliferation of Government offices, variety of institutions, Headquarters of various organisations, Governmental and otherwise making Delhi unmanageable both from civic and law and order angle, Government have, of late, made any evaluation of the situation and to take a policy decision with regard to the shifting of the offices/institutions etc. to other NCR satellite towns and other cities and also opening of new offices in the City; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The need to avoid further congestion in Delhi has been recognised and for this purpose the Government have decided that no new office of the Central Government or Public Sector Undertakings and Statuory or Corporate Bodies owned or controlled by Central Government be set up in Delhi or brought from outside places to Delhi without obtaining express prior approval of Cabinet Committee on Accommodation. Besides, with a view to secure decongestion as far as possible, it has been decided to shift the Head Quarter offices of 27 Public Sector Undertakings and also some Central Govt. Offices outside Delhi as per details given in Statement I & II.

Statement—I

List of Public Sector Undertakings decided to be shifted out of Delhi.

1. National Seeds Corporation Ltd.
2. State Farms Corpns. of India Ltd.
3. Central Warehousing Corporation.
4. Food Corporation of India.
5. Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation of India Ltd.
6. Vayudoot.
7. Helicopter Corp. of India.
8. Airlines Allied Services Ltd.
9. National Airport Authority of India.
10. National Small Industries Corp. Ltd.
11. National Fertiliser Ltd.
12. Fertiliser Corp. of India.
13. Hindustan Fertiliser Corp. Ltd.